

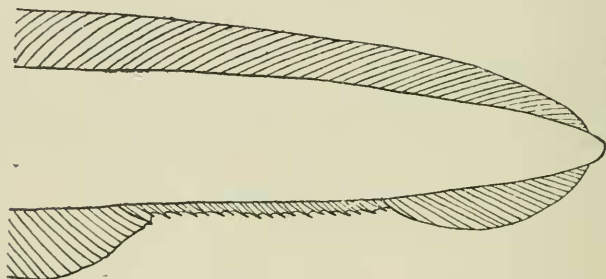
XXXVIII.—*A new Eel from Tobago.*

By J. R. NORMAN.

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ACANTHENCHELYS, gen. nov.

Closely related to *Ophichthys*, but distinguished by the structure of the anal fin, which is very similar to the dorsal fin of *Zoarces*, having a series of short spines not far from the end of the tail.

Tail of *Acanthenchelys spinicauda*.*Acanthenchelys spinicauda*, sp. n.

Depth of body at origin of dorsal $2\frac{3}{4}$ in length of head, which is about 3 in distance from gill-opening to vent; length of tail about equal to that of head and trunk. Snout broad and obtusely rounded, $1\frac{2}{3}$ times diameter of eye, which is nearly twice in interorbital width. Jaws equal anteriorly; cleft of mouth $2\frac{1}{2}$ times length of snout, extending well beyond posterior border of eye. Teeth pointed, in a double series in each jaw; vomerine teeth in a single series, at least posteriorly. Origin of dorsal just behind end of pectoral, which is nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head. Anal fin with about 20 spines. Brownish, lighter below; about fourteen darker bands across the back, narrower than the interspaces, not continued below lateral line; fins yellow.

A single specimen, 1100 mm. in total length, from Tobago, collected and presented to the British Museum by Mr. P. Lechmere Guppy.

Ophichthys ocellatus, Lesueur, is also referable to this

genus, and may be distinguished from the above species by the following characters:—Tail a little longer than head and trunk together; snout pointed; upper jaw projecting beyond the lower; anal fin with 26 or 27 spines; 16 to 20 round white spots along the middle of the side; some white dots on the back behind the head; a white line across occiput; dorsal fin with a dark edge. There are three specimens of this species in the British Museum collection, 340–580 mm. in total length, from Tobago and the Gulf of Mexico.

Jordan and Evermann, in their revision of the fishes of North and Middle America*, give *Muraenopsis*, Kaup, with *ocellatus* as the type, as a synonym of *Ophichthys*. On looking into the matter, it appears that Kaup had no intention of making *O. ocellatus* the type of a new genus; he was listing three species of Lesueur's genus *Muraenophis*, and by a slip or a misprint this name appeared as *Muraenopsis*.

XXXIX.—*The Eel-worm in Paper-hangers' Paste* [*Anguillula rediviva* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Stiles and Hussall*, 1905]. By T. GOODEY, D.Sc.†

Introduction.

The eel-worms of vinegar and sour paste have an almost classic interest attaching to them, in view of the fact that the early microscopists studied them so frequently and devoted a considerable amount of space in their writings to descriptions of them and to the methods by which they could be reared. These organisms are not very frequently met with nowadays, and I was therefore much interested when Dr. W. A. Cunningham, of St. Bartholomew's Medical School, brought into this department a few months ago a small quantity of paper-hangers' paste which had a pleasantly sour odour and was literally alive with eel-worms. I had never seen these creatures before, and, as they were present in abundance, a suitable opportunity was afforded for a study of them.

After a few preliminary observations, I made an attempt to identify the worms, and it was then I found a good deal of confusion among the systematists as to the identity of the paste eel-worm—some considered it as one and the same as

* Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1896, p. 381.

† From the Helminthological Department, London School of Tropical Medicine.